



TETRA TECH, INC.

June 27, 2002

Mr. Shawn M. Palmer  
U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector  
1500 W. La Quinta Road  
Nogales, AZ 85621

Subject: Proposed Tucson Electric Power Transmission Line near Nogales, Arizona

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Tetra Tech is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) for a proposed Tucson Electric Power (TEP) transmission line that would cross the U.S.-Mexico border near Nogales, Arizona. As part of our analysis, we are seeking input from the U.S. Border Patrol regarding potential impacts of the proposed transmission line on illegal immigration and drug related activities. Keith Graves, Coronado National Forest District Ranger, provided basic information on U.S. Border Patrol operations in this area in a recent interview, as reflected in the attached notes, and referred us to contact you. We have provided below a basic description of the project, and would be happy to provide additional details as needed for your consideration.

The transmission line would extend south from Sahuarita, Arizona for approximately 60 miles, crossing the U.S.-Mexico border west of Nogales, Arizona and continuing approximately 60 miles into the Sonoran region of Mexico. The border crossing is a few miles west of Interstate 19, in the vicinity of an El Paso Natural Gas Company pipeline within Section 24, Township 24 South, Range 13 East. The double-circuit 345-kV line would be strung on a single set of support structures approximately 140 feet high. During construction, new access roads will be built where no access currently exists and some existing roads and trails may be closed in an effort to mitigate overall project impacts on forest land. Upon completion of construction, a 125 to 200-foot wide right-of-way (ROW) would be maintained below the length of the line, as needed, to provide maintenance access for TEP. Locked gates and fences would be installed at specified ROW locations as required to limit access. Project information, including depictions of the support structures being proposed, can be found on DOE's project website, on the Fact Sheet at <http://www.ttclients.com/tep>. The website also includes a map of the study corridors that will be analyzed in the EIS as potential routes for the transmission line ROW. Note that each alternative has the same location for crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, as described above.

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Specifically, please provide any corrections or additions to the attached interview notes with Mr. Graves regarding potential project impacts on illegal immigration and drug-related activities. Also, please indicate what type of mitigation measures, if any, the U.S. Border Patrol would recommend. We have also contacted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, who referred us to the INS, along with other Federal and state agencies. If you have any questions, please call me at (315) 682-3268, or email me at [hmbalauer@erols.com](mailto:hmbalauer@erols.com). Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated, as we will include your comments in the Draft EIS to be issued for public review, tentatively scheduled for September 2002.

Sincerely,



H. Mark Blauer Ph.D.  
Project Manager

cc: Ed Beck, Tucson Electric Power Company  
Dr. Jerry Pell, U.S. Department of Energy

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